

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7181

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, AR
SUBJ: BIO DATA ON ARGENTINE NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS

REF: A) STATE 182527, B) STATE 206257

1. HEAVY WATER RESEARCH EXPERT ALBERTO CASSANO DEVELOPED ENGINEERING DETAILS FOR ARGENTINA'S NEW HEAVY WATER POWER PLANT, FOR WHICH CONSTRUCTION BIDS RECENTLY WENT OUT. CASSANO HAD PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO THE US AT THE SAME TIME ARGENTINE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (ENEA) DIRECTOR COSENTINO SCHEDULED HIS IV TRAVEL GRANT. COSENTINO'S TRIP WAS POSTPONED AND CASSANO ALSO DID NOT TRAVEL. CASSANO HAD APPARENTLY PLANNED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF FUTURE FINANCING FOR THE HEAVY WATER PLANT. CASSANO IS FRIENDLY WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS BUT RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

2. HUGO ERRAMUSPE, A FRANK, FRIENDLY AND EXTREMELY BRIGHT PHYSICIST, WAS DIRECTOR OF THE BARILOCHE ATOMIC CENTER FOR FIVE YEARS. HE RETURNED TO CNEA HEADQUARTERS IN 1976 AS DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, WHERE HE IS IN CHARGE OF REACTOR RESEARCH AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY PROGRAMS. IN THE NON-CONVENTIONAL AREA, ERRAMUSPE IS CONCENTRATING ON WIND ENERGY PROGRAM IN PATAGONIA, WHICH HE FEELS COULD EVENTUALLY GENERATE SEVERAL THOUSAND MWS THROUGH HUNDREDS OF WIND MILLS. ERREMUSPE
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IS ALSO WORKING ON A PROGRAM FOR CONVERSION OF RESEARCH REACTORS TO LEU HIGH DENSITY FUELS. ARGENTINA LACKS THIS TECHNOLOGY AND HIS RESEARCH MAY TAKE FIVE YEARS. ERRAMESPE IS VERY CANDID IN DISCUSSIONS ON CNEA PROGRAMS. HE BELIEVES CNEA NEED ONLY BE A MANAGEMENT AGENCY WITH A RESEARCH ORGANIZATION. POWER PROGRAMS SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF UTILITIES. ERRAMUSPE IS, HONEST AND

STRAIGHT-FORWARD FRIENDLY TOWARD THE US. HE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING THE US TO DISCUSS REACTOR RESEARCH, NEW FUELS, AND WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY.

3. EMBASSY IS SEEKING PHOTOS OF OFFICIALS LISTED IN REFTELS THROUGH NEWS AGENCIES AND WILL POUCH ONCE OBTAINED.

4. EMBASSY WILL TRY TO DEVELOP MORE INFORMATION ON KEY CNEA OFFICIALS AS FUTURE CONTACTS PERMIT.
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